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Identical letters dated 29 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council that the Iraqi authorities are persisting in their flagrant violations of resolutions that have the force of international law and of international conventions and covenants.

Iraqi military units positioned in Iraqi territory have in recent times violated the land boundaries of Saudi Arabia and have attacked units of the Saudi Frontier Force and inflicted a number of casualties on them, both killed and wounded.

On the evening of 23 May 2001 an Iraqi patrol crossed the Saudi-Iraqi international boundary, penetrated 400 metres inside Saudi territory and fired on personnel of the Saudi Frontier Force near the Sahn al-Sharqiyah post in the Uwayqilah sector. Members of the Saudi Frontier Force were forced to respond to the fire in self-defence, and in the exchange between the Force and the members of the Iraqi patrol a number of Saudi soldiers were wounded. When the commander of the Sahn al-Sharqiyah post in the Uwayqilah sector proceeded to the site of the shooting, which was inside Saudi territory, together with elements from the Saudi patrol, a wounded Iraqi soldier was found who had been abandoned by the Iraqi patrol in Saudi territory. The Saudi patrol took him to Uwayqilah hospital in the Kingdom's northern province for treatment. After he was admitted to the hospital, an attending physician reported that the Iraqi soldier had died. It transpired that the Iraqi soldier who died was Taqi Abd al-Amir Husayn and was the bearer of Iraqi identity card No. 861661, which was found on him. Through its embassy in Kuwait, the Saudi Government asked the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kuwait to approach the Iraqi authorities through its delegation in Baghdad and to make the necessary arrangements to receive the body of the deceased Iraqi soldier at the earliest possible opportunity for transmission to the Iraqi authorities.

The Saudi Government would also like to call the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council to the violations and infringements that the Iraqi forces have constantly been committing. They have violated the territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia in numerous locations, and they have fired at personnel of the Saudi Frontier Force, placing their lives at risk and inflicting a number of casualties, both killed and wounded. Some recent examples are given hereunder.

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1. On 19 March 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Mujaylis border post in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

2. During the night of 28/29 March 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Kasr border post in the Rafha' sector in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

3. During the night of 1/2 April 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Kasr border post in the Rafha' sector in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

4. During the night of 6/7 April 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Umm al-Hayran border post in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

5. During the night of 6/7 April 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Umm al-Shu'ara' border post in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

6. During the night of 7/8 April 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Sadah border post in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

7. During the night of 8/9 April 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Kasr border post in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

8. During the night of 10/11 April 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Umm al-Kasr border post in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

9. On 13 April 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Sahn border post in the Uwayqilah sector near the boundary pillar in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

10. During the night of 20/21 April 2001 a Saudi Frontier Force patrol at the Rabthan border post in Saudi territory came under fire from an Iraqi patrol ensconced inside Iraqi territory.

There were also many incidents during 1999 in which the personnel of Saudi patrols manning Saudi border posts inside Saudi territory were fired upon by Iraqi patrols operating inside Iraqi territory. They included one where an Iraqi patrol operating inside Iraqi territory fired on a Saudi patrol manning the Lifiyah post in the Saudi Uwayqilah sector, killing a Saudi soldier, Ibrahim Ahmad Mu'afa, of the Saudi Frontier Force.

The aforesaid incidents took place at different times, and we had believed them to be isolated acts that might be overlooked. But it has recently become clear to us that they have a certain continuity and that there is a persistence in maintaining the attacks and the violations of the country's international boundaries that demonstrates that the Iraqi authorities are responsible for them. The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations has thus been impelled to address this letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the President of the Security Council with a view to the necessary measures being taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and with the Security Council's responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and stability. We appeal to the Security Council

to urge Iraq to desist from its violations of Saudi Arabia's international boundaries, and we assert the inalienable right of the Kingdom to take whatever measures it deems appropriate to protect its security and its borders.

Accordingly, the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia alerts the Members of the United Nations to the grave consequences of the continued violation by the Iraqi authorities of the territory of Saudi Arabia, which jeopardizes security and peace in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fawzi Bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative